ESCOLHAS

MARCH **2013** / NUMBER 24

PROGRAMAESCOLHAS

SPECIAL EDITION

The people as the best resource

SPECIAL EDITION

MARCH **2013** / NUMBER 24

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Content

P.01 **PROGRAMA ESCOLHAS** – Presentation

P.02 **5TH GENERATION MAP**

P.03 **PROGRAMA ESCOLHAS MODEL**

P.04 **MEASURES**

P.05 **OUTCOMES & IMPACTS**

P.06 **DISTINCTIONS & AWARDS**

P.07 **COMMUNITY ENGAGERS**

P.08 **CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

P.09 **DIGITAL INCLUSION**

P.10 **PRODUCTION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE**
Social Innovation: Escolhas Resources
Financial Literacy: "Contas à Vida" with Barclays Bank
Manual of Entrepreneurship

P.13 **ART & INCLUSION**
Artist Residencies EVA – Exclusão de Valor Acrescentado
"Da Rua para o Palco" and Talents & Fashion
CD "A Nossa Voz" casts new musical talent

P.16 **SPORT & INCLUSION**
Escolhas League - Football as a vehicle for positive change and new opportunities
Rugby Schools and "Para ti, Se não faltares"

P.18 **GLOBAL INITIATIVES**
"Escolhas Ship"
"Escolhas Village"
Gala event: "10 years of Programa Escolhas"

P.21 **SOME NUMBERS**
Monitoring and Evaluation

ABOUT PROGRAMA ESCOLHAS

This is a nationwide program, promoted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and operating under the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue – ACIDI, which aims to promote social inclusion of children and young people from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds, aiming for equality of opportunities and the reinforcement of social cohesion.

Programa Escolhas*

PRESENTATION

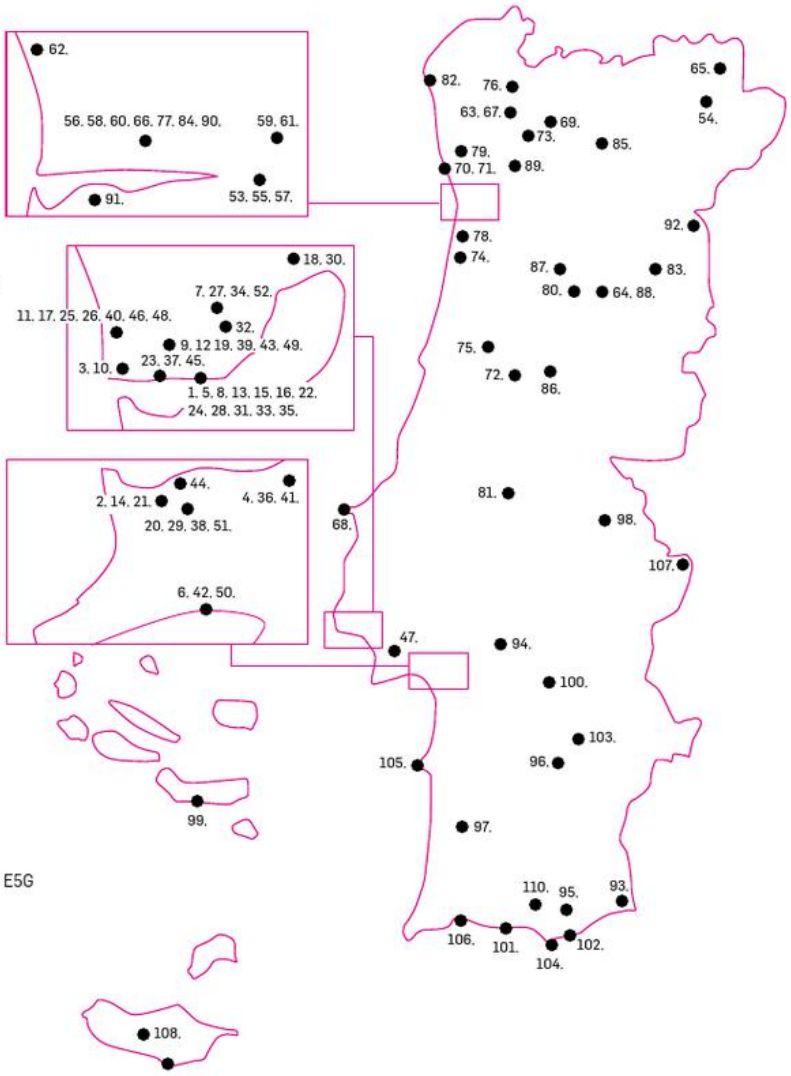
[translated *Choices Program]

Programa Escolhas is a nationwide program, created in 2001, promoted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and operating under the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue – ACIDI, which aims to promote social inclusion of children and young people from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds, aiming for equality of opportunities and the reinforcement of social cohesion. Currently in its 5th generation, which will run until December 2015, Escolhas Program maintains agreements with consortia of 110 social inclusion projects in diverse communities (with an option to finance 30 more), many of which take place in neighborhoods with a high proportion of immigrants and ethnic minorities.

Escolhas Program is funded by the *Instituto da Segurança Social, by the **Direção Geral de Educação and by the ***Fundo Social Europeu, through the Programa Operacional Potencial Humano (POPH/QREN)

[translated *Institute for Social Security; ** General Direction of Education and ***European Social Fund, through the Operational Program for Human Potential]

5th Generation Map



1. **Lisboa -** Projeto Bola P'ra Frente 2G - E5G
2. **Almada -** Geração Cool - E5G
3. **Cascais -** ORIENTA.TE SDR - E5G
4. **Moita -** TASSE - E5G
5. **Lisboa -** Espaço Jovem da Quinta do Lavrado - E5G
6. **Setúbal -** CLPManteigadas - E5G
7. **Loures -** InSERir com Escolhas - E5G
8. **Lisboa -** PASSAPORTE - E5G
9. **Amadora -** A Rodar - E5G
10. **Cascais -** Take.it (Talentos e Artes com Kreatividade e Empreendorismo) - E5G
11. **Sintra -** O Espaço, Desafios e Oportunidades - E5G
12. **Amadora -** B.R.A.V.E. - Bridging. Resiliência. Atitude. Visão. Escolhas - E5G
13. **Lisboa -** Claquete - E5G
14. **Almada -** Agir a fazer o futuro - E5G
15. **Lisboa -** Sementes a Crescer - E5G
16. **Lisboa -** Entrelaços, és capaz! - E5G
17. **Sintra -** Orienta.Te [Rio de Mouro] - E5G
18. **Vila Franca de Xira -** Poder (Es)Colher - E5G
19. **Amadora -** Loja Mira Jovem - Geração Desporto - E5G
20. **Seixal -** Escola de Rua - E5G
21. **Almada -** Projecto +XL - E5G
22. **Lisboa -** Há Escolhas no Bairro - E5G
23. **Oeiras -** Embarca - E5G
24. **Lisboa -** Fazer a Ponte - E5G
25. **Sintra -** Escolhas Saudáveis - E5G
26. **Sintra -** KS Escolhas - E5G
27. **Loures -** EnvolveTE nesta oportunidade - E5G
28. **Lisboa -** "+ Skillz" - E5G
29. **Seixal -** Tutores de Bairro - E5G
30. **Vila Franca de Xira - "**+ Forte" - E5G
31. **Lisboa -** IntendArte - E5G
32. **Odivelas -** Encontr@rte - E5G
33. **Lisboa -** ReTrocas - E5G
34. **Loures -** Projeto Esperança - E5G
35. **Lisboa -** Campolide@DECIDE - E5G
36. **Moita -** Escolhas VA - E5G
37. **Oeiras -** Integr.arte - E5G
38. **Seixal -** "K"CITAR-T - Centro de Formação e Empregabilidade Jovem CRIAR-T - E5G
39. **Amadora -** Percursos Acompanhados - E5G
40. **Sintra** - Meg@ctivo - E5G
41. **Moita -** BxB PRO JOVEM - E5G
42. **Setúbal -** PRO INFINITO E MAIS ALÉM - E5G
43. **Amadora -** Nu Kre III - E5G
44. **Montijo -** "TU KONT@S+" - E5G
45. **Oeiras -** EnTreCul - E5G
46. **Sintra -** NOVOS DESAFIOS - E5G
47. **Barreiro -** Trilhos - E5G
48. **Sintra -** Viv@Cidade - E5G
49. **Amadora -** Escolhas João de Deus - E5G
50. **Setúbal -** Agora Sim! - E5G
51. **Seixal -** Estás n@ Mira - E5G
52. **Loures -** Eu amo SAC - E5G
53. **Vila Nova de Gaia -** Escolhe Vilar - E5G
54. **Mirandela -** Projeto Incentivar: Faz a Tua Escolha - E5G
55. **Vila Nova de Gaia -** Projeto Desafios - E5G
56. **Porto -** Lagarteiro e o Mundo - E5G
57. **Vila Nova de Gaia -** MAIS JOVEM - E5G
58. **Porto -** Catapulta - E5G
59. **Gondomar -** EntrEscolhas - Geração D'Ouro - E5G
60. **Porto -** METAS - Mediar Escolhas, Trabalhar Autonomias - E5G
61. **Gondomar -** A ESCOLHA É TUA! - E5G
62. **Póvoa de Varzim -** Arrisca - E5G
63. **Braga -** Projeto T3tris.2 - E5G
64. **Covilhã -** Arca de Talentos - E5G
65. **Bragança -** Pontes de Inclusão - E5G
66. **Porto -** Projeto Raiz - E5G
67. **Braga -** Geração Tecla - E5G
68. **Peniche -** OJE - E5G
69. **Fafe -** Projeto InOut - E5G
70. **Matosinhos -** SIGA - Seixo, Investe, Ganha e Autonomiza - E5G
71. **Matosinhos -** Biquinha em Ação - E5G
72. **Lousã -** ESPAÇO J - Gabinete de apoio ao jovem - E5G
73. **Guimarães -** C.S.I. Crescer Solidário e Integrado - E5G
74. **Aveiro -** EntreSendas - E5G
75. **Coimbra -** Trampolim - E5G
76. **Vila Verde -** "+ Giro" - E5G
77. **Porto -** Ramal(de) Intervenção - E5G
78. **Ovar -** Agitana-te - E5G
79. **Maia -** Bué d' Escolhas - E5G
80. **Fundão -** Matriz - E5G
81. **Tomar -** (Tomar) O Rumo Certo - E5G
82. **Viana do Castelo -** Dar-que Pensar - E5G
83. **Guarda, Sabugal -** "tu decides+..." - E5G
84. **Porto -** Cercar-te - E5G
85. **Vila Real -** + Social - E5G
86. **Pampilhosa da Serra -** TRILHOS rur@l_idades - E5G
87. **Viseu -** Escolhas Acertadas - E5G
88. **Covilhã -** "Quero Saber +" - E5G
89. **Paços de Ferreira -** Percursos (de)talhados - E5G
90. **Porto -** Sinergi@s - E5G
91. **Espinho -** Multivivências - E5G
92. **Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo -** Convergir para a Igualdade - E5G
93. **Vila Real de Santo António -** Escolhas Vivas - E5G
94. **Montemor-o-Novo -** Monte Dentro - E5G
95. **São Brás de Alportel -** LinKa-Te - E5G
96. **Beja -** Inclusão pela Arte III - E5G
97. **Odemira -** ST - E5G
98. **Portalegre -** Universo das Oportunidades - E5G
99. **Ponta Delgada -** Renascer - E5G
100. **Évora -** EmpowerMENTE - E5G
101. **Albufeira -** Pescador de Sonhos - E5G
102. **Olhão -** Mais Sucesso - E5G
103. **Moita -** Encontros - E5G
104. **Faro -** recri@5.0 - E5G
105. **Sines -** A Priori - E5G
106. **Portimão -** Mergulha Por ti(mão) - E5G
107. **Campo Maior -** Incentiv@r.te - E5G
108. **Câmara de Lobos -** Esc@Up - E5G
109. **Funchal -** "C@pacitar +" - E5G
110. **Loulé -** Aprendiz@rte - E5G

Escolhas Program Model

Since 2004 this program is based on locally planned projects implemented, at least, by three local institutions and, in this 5th generation, about one thousand local partners are involved in Escolhas projects all over Portugal.

Each project involves a promoting institution that, along with other partners (schools, training centers, associations, civil society organizations, among others), form a consortium. Each consortium develops and implements daily activities for children and young people aged between 6 and 24 years, in five complementary areas.

Within the five main areas, and based on precise local diagnosis, several activities are targeted “a la carte” by the local projects. It is from this principle of localism, without losing the global coherence of the program, that each project adjusts the design of their mission.

Measures

Measure I
SCHOOL INCLUSION AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Measure II
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY

Measure III
CIVIC AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Measure IV
DIGITAL INCLUSION

Measure V
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

Outcomes & Impacts

The external evaluation that is conducted since 2001 by a team of independent evaluators and researchers at the Center for Territorial Studies - CET, concludes that "the main results of the evaluation process prove that this is a program of unquestionable quality, globally above average, which in some fields reaches levels of excellence, both nationally and, in certain areas, also internationally. "

All external evaluation reports are available on:
http://www.programaescolhas.pt/avaliacoes

Over the past years Programa Escolhas has been recognized internationally as a case study in the area of social inclusion of children and young people coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Distinctions & Awards

2002

Selected by the Council of Europe as **Good Practice in Combating Daily Violence**;

2003

Winner of the European Crime Prevention Prize, awarded by the European Union (European Network of Crime Prevention);

2007

Selected as **Best Practice in the "Handbook for Integration"**, published by the European Commission;

2008

Identified as **one of the world's seven best practices in the 1st World Report on Safe Communities**, awarded by the International Center for the Prevention of Crime (Canada);

2010

The Digital Inclusion Centers, CID@NET are selected as **Good Practice in the "Handbook for Integration II"**, published by the European Commission;

2011

Selected as a **Good Practice under the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency**, awarded by the Portuguese Ministry of Internal Administration, under the European Crime Prevention Award.

Chosen as **Good Practice in Combating Early School Leaving**, assigned by the European Commission;

2012

Quoted as an **example in the European Social Fund Empowerment Handbook**, following the invitation to participate in the European Learning Network on Empowerment and Inclusion.

Community Engagers

In its fourth generation, Programa Escolhas introduced the figure of community engagers. They are young people from the community, who integrate the projects teams and through their profile of positive leadership, become a positive role model and contribute, by their close relationship with the community, for the mobilization of children, young people and the community in general.

Civic Participation

Empowerment and autonomy are two big priorities of Programa Escolhas. It is intended that, young people may increasingly appropriate the dynamics initiated by the projects, complete it and move on towards the future, thus ensuring the sustainability of the actual work done by the technical teams of the projects.

Change the Neighborhood

The competition which challenged young people's Escolhas across the country to submit ideas and solutions that contributed to improve the quality of life in their communities.
More on:
http://mudaobairro.wordpress.com/

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion is a measure that covers the mission of Escolhas overall and often intersects with other measures of the program, adding value to them. Its objectives are pursued through a range of activities such as:

. leisure activities,
. skill development activities,
. courses initiation in ICT,
. training certified in ICT,
.activities that promote knowledge and employment,

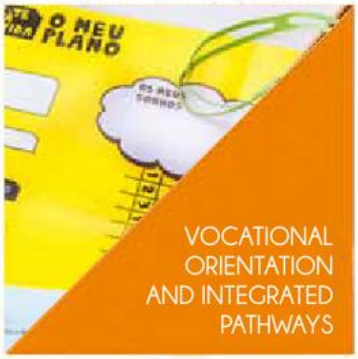
Several partnerships within the corporate social responsibility of companies like Porto Editora, Cisco and Microsoft have made it possible to take even further the impact of the work on Digital Inclusion Centers, CID@NET and CID@FORMA.

PRODUCTION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

RE / COLHAS MAKING SCHOOL WITH ESCOLHAS

ESCOLHAS RESOURCES

INTERCULTURALISM



VOCATIONAL ORIENTATION AND INTEGRATED PATHWAYS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

RE / COLHAS

MAKING SCHOOL WITH ESCOLHAS

Social Innovation:
Choices Resources

Benefiting from experience and innovative solutions tested over time by field projects, Escolhas promoted the production of 33 resources for preventing and combating social exclusion of children and young people. It was a process of systematization of knowledge, coordinated by experts from various fields, available online at:
http://www.programaescolhas.pt/recursosescolhas

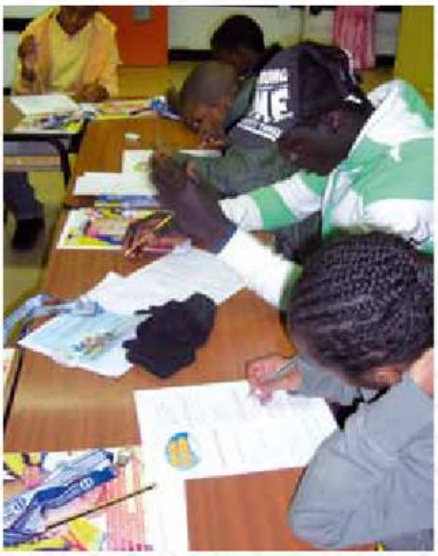
PRODUCTION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

Financial Literacy

Contas à Vida* with Barclays Bank

After a three year experience during which about eight hundred children and young people in Escolhas projects were taught to invest in their life quality by organizing their finances, the idea was extended also to their families, with the production of new contents produced in partnership with Escolhas.

[*translated Accounts of Life]



Abaco Project

Escolhas adapted to Portugal this European Union funded project, which aims to provide basic skills of financial organization, management and savings to a vulnerable adult audience. A Guide to Financial Literacy Training was produced and made available to projects across the country. A training program enabled the Escolhas technical team to implement this tool in the communities where the program operates.

More on: *www.abaco-project.eu*

PRODUCTION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

Manual of Entrepreneurship

A Manual of Economic and Social Entrepreneurship is an unprecedented resource in Portugal for young people, between 14 and 24 years, coming from vulnerable contexts. The double edition includes also a handbook for trainers. The project is a partnership between Programa Escolhas and the Catholic University of Porto, and is available online at: ***http://empreende.programaescolhas.pt/***

ART AND INCLUSION

Artist Residencies EVA

Exclusão de Valor Acrescentado*

[* translated Exclusion with Added Value]

Art and culture can have a place and a role to play in the most excluded people living in cities. Programa Escolhas joined the Portuguese Arts Club to help to bring the art world to some of these communities. Twelve multidisciplinary artistic residences were animated in neighborhoods in the Greater Lisbon area, by a group of invited artists, who not only provided new skills to the young people in these communities, but also created unprecedented artistic pieces, representing their contribution to the city. More on:

http://projectoeva.wordpress.com/
http://projectoeva2011.wordpress.com/about/

ART AND INCLUSION

Da Rua para o Palco *

This vocational project in dancing toured ten social neighborhoods of Lisbon where Escolhas projects are in existence. It was an initiative of choreographer Marco De Camillis, who is also a former professional dancer and dance teacher who sought to capture new talents in this field. The purpose of this idea was to develop an educational program for social inclusion, inspired by the so-called "street dance", for young people aged between 16 and 25 years. The initiative was supported by Programa Escolhas and also by the Gulbenkian Foundation and EDP Foundation.

[* translated From street to stage]

Talents & Fashion

Programa Escolhas and Glam Agency joined in a partnership to find potential talents that may join the new world of fashion, theater and dance. There have been two scouting editions in some of the areas with Escolhas projects.

ART AND INCLUSION

CD “Our voice”
casts new musical talent

12 young finalists of the contest “Musical Talent”, sponsored by Programa Escolhas, EGEAC and Portuguese Youth Institute, in partnership with the Association Mais Cidadania, recorded a number of unreleased songs, after a period of intense training in several areas and a tour throughout the country. The CD aims to publicize and to promote the present day musical production in the most vulnerable communities in Portugal.

The original music can be heard at:
http://pescolhas.bandcamp.com/

SPORT AND INCLUSION

Escolhas League

Football as a vehicle for positive change and new opportunities

This original initiative that chooses football as a vehicle for social inclusion, was released with a first edition with players from Escolhas projects, aged between 10 and 14 years, from neighborhoods in the districts of Lisbon and Setúbal. This league is not just about goals, but also enhances team spirit, social integration, school success, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and the struggle for equality and against discrimination. Teams also score with results from school and social service activities in the community, such as volunteer work, help to the elderly or to people with disabilities and campaigns to clean up woods or graffiti.

Escolhas League is promoted and managed by Aragão Pinto Foundation, with support from Escolhas and also had as partners CPCJ Lisbon-Centre and Out Green XXI.

More information on: ***http://www.ligaescolhas.com***

SPORT AND INCLUSION

Rugby Schools

Escolhas Projects led to the creation of Rugby Schools in seven parts of the country. This sport, which may appear to be aggressive or violent, is not in fact and has proven to be especially effective with many young people from vulnerable contexts who, through its practice, have managed to developed a lot of self control and ability to deal with rules.

"Para ti Se não faltares" *

The Benfica Foundation promotes, under Escolhas, a project that is based in the influence that a major football club like Benfica has on young people. It aims to motivate and help them progress in their studies. Those who have good results in school, may attend regular training for football and participate in tournaments that gather in the club stadium youth from across the country. Due to this approach the number of absences, disciplinary problems have clearly decreased and overall school results were improved. This project funded by Escolhas, located in the neighborhood of Bela Vista, Setúbal, is developed by a local consortium that joins the Vertical Group of Schools of the Order of Santiago, APPACDM, through "Project Pro Infinity and Beyond," and also a local Parents Association.

[*translated For you, If you don't miss]

Global Iniciatives

1

"Escolhas Ship"

130 youths, selected from projects across the country, who have distinguished themselves throughout the school year in results and civic participation, were awarded a special trip by ship to Madeira Island, in the International Youth Year. For a week they were able to take part in many activities, giving them knowledge of new realities.

2

"Escolhas Village"

Get to know life in the countryside, as it was in the past or still happens in many places, was the experience offered by Programa Escolhas to over a hundred young people, who were together for a week in the Estrela Mountain, in the summer of the 10th anniversary of Escolhas. During the year they have distinguished themselves in their projects and communities.
More information on: ***http://aldeiaescolhas.tumblr.com***

3

Gala event: “10 years of Programa Escolhas”

An Artistic Talent Contest launched on the occasion of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Escolhas ended with a Gala at which the finalists performed. On the occasion several personalities and institutions that distinguished themselves by their good examples and practices throughout the previous year were honored. The show was attended by several distinguished personalities in the Portuguese society.

Some Numbers

89.232 participants in projects funded by the Programa Escolhas

759.819 Work sessions

86,7% of overall educational success in school year 2011/2012

9.776 *reintegration into school, training and employment of previously unoccupied young people*

13.949 *certifications in ICT*

86% *of the overall funding directed to local projects*

0,42€ *Daily cost per capita*

[Data from 2010 to 2012, related to Programa Escolhas 4th Generation]

Monitoring and Evaluation

The technical and financial evaluation of the approved projects is an essential structural element of the intervention model of Programa Escolhas. It includes periodic visits to the projects. Annually the projects are informed of their evaluation, which will determine, or not, their renewal for the following year.

During the 4th generation of Programa Escolhas

- **28,568** hours of training were made available to local projects
- **3773** reports were produced and analyzed by the Central Team
- Local projects received **1457** technical monitoring visits from the Central Team

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